

[27 November, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Institute at Orissa

†450. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is National Institute of Science (N.I.S.) or Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (I.I.S.E.R.) or something else what the hon'ble Prime Minister declared about of late in the month of August, during his visit to Orissa;

(b) whether the hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of any building in this regard; and

(c) what is the amount to be incurred on this project and by when this institute will be built?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Institute of Physics at Bhubaneswar on 28th August, 2006 and declared setting up of a National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Bhubaneswar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The approximate expenditure for setting up of the Project, to be spread over a period of seven years, will be to the tune of Rs. 560.00 crores. All efforts are being made to start the first academics session from July, 2007.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas in M.P.

†451. MISSANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the sanctioned number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the number of these schools would be increased;

(c) if so, how many schools would be increased;

(d) if not, whether it is proper to leave those development blocks which are backward in respect of education only on the ground that the gender

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

gap is less there, no matter whether the educational level of the girls of those development blocks is weak; and

(e) what is the justification for not including all the educationally weak development blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The criterion for identification of Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) for the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme is blocks where the female rural literacy is below the national average and the gender gap in literacy is above the national average. The rationale is to prioritize blocks where gender discrimination is more. The Government of India has sanctioned 105 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in Madhya Pradesh till date. Additional eligible blocks will be considered for sanction in due course.

IT University in Hyderabad

452. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bill Gates proposes to set up an IT University at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this University will be given a Central University status; and

(d) the action plan of the Centre to improve IT industry in Orissa with a view to generate additional employment opportunities in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.

(d) The Central Government is taking various steps to promote the IT Sector throughout the country like reduction in excise and custom duties on IT-related items, setting up of Special Economic Zones, bringing approvals for FDI proposals related to IT sector under automatic route etc.